

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1                   1.       (Currently amended) A method for enhancing venous return to the heart,  
2 the method comprising:  
3                   repetitively compressing the patient's chest;  
4                   delivering a positive pressure breath for about 0.5 seconds to about 2 seconds to a  
5 person suffering from low blood pressure or head trauma;  
6                   actively extracting respiratory gases from the person's airway following the  
7 positive pressure breath to create an intrathoracic vacuum to enhance venous return to the heart,  
8 wherein the intrathoracic vacuum lowers the person's intrathoracic pressure to about -1mm Hg to  
9 about -20mm Hg; and  
10                  repeating the steps of delivering positive pressure breaths and extracting  
11 respiratory gases.
- 1                   2.       (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising interfacing an  
2 impedance threshold valve to the person's airway, wherein the threshold valve prevents airflow  
3 to the person's lungs when attempting to inspire until the threshold valve opens, thereby  
4 augmenting blood flow back to the heart.
- 1                   3.       (Original) A method as in claim 2, wherein the threshold valve is  
2 configured to open when the negative intrathoracic pressure exceeds about -7 cmH<sub>2</sub>O.
- 1                   4.       (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising interfacing a flow  
2 limiting valve to the patient's airway and regulating the pressure or the volume of the positive  
3 pressure breath with the flow limiting valve.
- 1                   5.       (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising interfacing a  
2 pressure source and a vacuum source to the person to deliver the positive pressure breath and to  
3 extract the respiratory gases.

1                   6.       (Original) A method as in claim 5, wherein the pressure source and the  
2 vacuum source comprise a compressible bag system.

1                   7.       (Original) A method as in claim 6, further comprising reconfiguring the  
2 compressible bag system to operate only as a pressure source.

1                   8.       (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising exhausting the  
2 extracted respiratory gases to the atmosphere.

1                   9.       (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising varying the  
2 duration of the positive pressure breaths or the extraction of the respiratory gases over time.

1                   10.      (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising supplying  
2 supplemental oxygen to the person.

1                   11.      (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising monitoring at least  
2 one physiological parameter of the person and varying the positive pressure breath or the  
3 extraction of respiratory gases based on the monitored parameter.

1                   12.      (Original) A method as in claim 11, wherein the physiological parameters  
2 are selected from a group consisting of end tidal CO<sub>2</sub>, oxygen saturation, blood pressure and  
3 cardiac output.

1                   13.      (Original) A method as in claim 11, further comprising varying the  
2 amplitude of the positive pressure breath or the extraction of respiratory gases.

1                   14.      (Original) A method as in claim 6, wherein the respiratory gases are  
2 extracted upon recoiling of the compressible bag system.

1                   15.      (Currently amended) A method as in claim 1, ~~wherein the intrathoracic~~  
2 ~~vacuum lowers the person's intrathoracic pressure to about -1mm Hg to about -20mm Hg, and~~  
3 wherein the intrathoracic vacuum is in the range from about -2mm Hg to about -60mm Hg.

1                   16.      (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising measuring the  
2 volume of the positive pressure breath.

- 1                    17.    (Original) A method as in claim 11, further comprising transmitting  
2    information on the measured parameter to a remote receiver.

Claims 18-19 (canceled).

Claims 20-34 (canceled).

Claim 35 (canceled).